/203 cont./

221 (primarily with the well-being of the livestock), but even here
574 he finds time "to see his friends" /tamyrnichat'/, i.e., to ride from kstau to kstau (winter camp) to visit, eat a great deal, bring and listen to news.

181 The Kirghiz-Kazak are the most cultured people among the Turks wandering in Asia, and there is no doubt that a better future lies before them. Their number is increasing and they are showing themselves to be receptive to cultural advancements.

One may judge the comparative level of culture of the Kirghiz-Kazak in part by the character of their language, by the means and forms they have for expressing their thoughts, by the richness of the folk literature, and finally by the state of development of the arts.

114 Some Russian ethnologists (Patkanov, for example) relate
197 the Kirghiz-Kazak dialect to the eastern group of the Turkic language, while others (Radlov) relate it to the western group, and more precisely to a special form of it -- the Kirghiz (which
212 is spoken by all the Turks in our region). The Kirghiz /Kazak/
195 use the Arabic alphabet, which began to be spread among the
191 Turks of Central Asia in the 8th century along with Islam. Before this (from the 4th century) they had the Syrian alphabet (brought in by Christians of the Nestorian sect). The enigmatic runic writing discovered by archeologists in Eastern Siberia has also been shown to belong to the Turks and not to the ancient Slavs, Finns, Jews, or other peoples, as many thought. A variety of the Syrian alphabet is retained now only among the Mongols and Manchu, while the remaining Turks use the Arabic alphabet.

• 193 The Turkic language is one of the uninflected languages (having little development of grammatical relations between words). Its structure is based on the building of words, i.e., the grammatical relationship between words is expressed not by changing the original form of the word, but by adding suffixes (affixes) and insertions (infixes) to it. In this the link between the roots and these additions is so weak that all the

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193 constituent parts of the word are easily separated. Such languages are known among some scholars as agglutinative, and among others as uninflected, formless, etc. Since Ural-Altaic peoples speak them, they are most often called Ural-Altaic
192 languages. Under the influence of Islam and of their neighbors (Russians, Mongols, and others), one notices /204/ an admixture of foreign words in the Kirghiz /Kazak/ language from Arabic, Mongol, Russian, and especially Tatar, and several other languages.

538 The folklore is quite rich, although it is also monotonous. It is expressed primarily in works of lyric and epic content. The former come down to a description of love and the experiencing of various feelings and situations by the lovers. Much space is given to comparisons of the internal and external qualities of the hero and heroine. The epic works contain descriptions of the former life of the Kirghiz /Kazak/ and the deeds and great feasts "across the whole steppe" of eminent heroes and rich khans -- Ablai, Naurzbai, and others. Of these, the poem "Kurpech (Kuzu) and Bayan (Solu)" deserves the greatest attention. This is an ancient work, evidently not by one author but by a group. Although it has an uncomplicated plot (Kurpech loves Bayan and on the advice of his father thinks of marrying her, but another suitor, Tologoi, appears and kills Kurpech, and Bayan then kills Tologoi and herself), this work is of great interest for its artistic description of nature and especially of the everyday life and manners of its time. From this point of view it has no equal among other Kirghiz /Kazak/ works. Its popularity among the Kirghiz /Kazak/ is great. Many place names are associated with the names of its heroes -- mountains, rivers, landmarks, and others (where the events described took place). The grave of Kurpech has been preserved until now (not far from Sergiopol).

538 In addition there is a whole series of songs of everyday
533 life associated with various rituals and events of life -- weddings, funerals, etc. The works of the well-known folk poet Nogoibai and his followers should be named as compositions of the most